



Emerging Issues Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2008

Summary

Emerging Issues Subcommittee Members in Attendance (5):

Meena Shahi (Arizona Department of Health Services, Division of Behavioral Health Services)
Wendy Wolfersteig (Arizona State University, Arizona Prevention Resource Center)
Michelle Neitch, (Arizona Criminal Justice Commission)—proxy for Phillip Stevenson
Judith Fritsch (Department of Economic Security, Community Partnerships and Innovative Practices)
Dennis Embry, Chair (PAXIS Institute)—via conference call
Richard Porter (Arizona Department of Health Services, Bureau of Vital Statistics)

Emerging Issues Subcommittee Members Absent (9):

Wanda LeClere MacDonald (Navajo Behavioral Health Services, Navajo Nation)
Joan McNamara (Pima County/Tucson Commission on Drug Addiction and Prevention, Compass Health Care)
Alida Montiel (Inter Tribal Council of Arizona)
Jerry Boehm (Arizona Council of Human Service Providers)
Jody Sekerak (Indian Health Services)
John Morris (Yavapai County Drug Courts)
Julie Treinen (Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections)
Christina Cutshaw (University of Arizona)
Charles Katz (Arizona State University, Arizona Arrestee Reporting Information Network)

Governor's Office Staff (1):

Jeanne Blackburn (GOCYF)

Public (0):



Call to Order was made by Dennis Embry at 1:13 p.m.

Welcome and Introductions

- Dennis Embry asked the attendees and guests present to introduce themselves and their respective agency/group.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Meena Shahi motioned for an acceptance of the January, 2008 meeting minutes; Richard Porter seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved with no dissenters.

Announcements

- Meena Shahi notified the group that registration is still open for the upcoming 1st Annual Youth *Dare To Be Different* conference, sponsored by the Arizona Department of Health Services' Statewide Youth Advisory Council.
- New members should be solicited for the Emerging Issues Subcommittee, including police officers and other first responders, from non-Phoenix metropolitan areas of the state (e.g., northern Arizona).

Update on Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group/ASAP

- Jeanne Blackburn updated the group on the Epidemiology Work Group's activities, including the substance abuse treatment services capacity project that it is undertaking, which will be reported to the Governor at her April 15th Children's Cabinet meeting.
 - Once the data has been gathered from all surveyed state agencies, Jeanne Blackburn will notify the Epidemiology Work Group and will keep the group informed of the report-writing progress.
 - The group discussed whether it would be feasible to hold an additional Epidemiology Work Group meeting to work on this project or to solicit feedback on the report (as it progresses) via e-mail to include the comments of the Epidemiology Work Group.

Trend Projects: Children's Bipolar Disorder and Rx Drug Abuse

- Dennis Embry noted that the trend projects are still in draft form and need some additional information.
 - Michelle Neitch will pull data on Rx drug abuse from the Arizona Youth Survey for Dennis for inclusion in the fact sheet on Rx drug abuse.
 - Meena Shahi will provide treatment data for Rx drug abuse for CY 2007 for Dennis for inclusion in the fact sheet.
 - The group discussed the correlation of Rx drug abuse and obesity, which (if this information is included) would likely increase the total pages of the document from two to four.
 - Judith Fritsch inquired as to the document's intended audience to determine how we can include information in the document that is geared toward the layperson.
 - Wendy Wolfersteig replied that we could include two or three website addresses intended for the lay reader.
 - Also suggested was the inclusion of a "For More Information" section.



- Group members were advised that if they had any comments on either of the fact sheets, they should send them to either Dennis Embry or Jeanne Blackburn.
- In addition, input was requested on the “canary” survey.
 - In approximately two months, Paxis Institute will have purchased survey software (non-Survey Monkey).
 - The “canary” survey link could be sent via listserv to the faith-based community and colleges and community colleges (e.g., in their health newsletters) and be placed in local community papers.
- Each group member should bring a list of two (or more) topics that s/he feels should be the topic of a one-pager/fact sheet to next month’s meeting.

Life Path Project

- The “Life Path Project,” which is a timeline that chronicles the life trajectories of three youth in the Arizona criminal justice system, including their encounters with various state agencies and the costs associated with such contacts, will be discussed by Michelle Anderson and/or Julie Treinen at next month’s meeting.

“Dare to be Different” Conference: Opportunity for Focus Group?

- Michelle Neitch informed the group that the possibility exists to conduct a focus group at the *Dare To Be Different* conference among youth in recovery, which would potentially reveal interesting data on drug use patterns among youth.
 - Parental consent has already been garnered as it is a requirement for conference participation.
 - Tom Kelly of the Arizona Department of Health Services is already aware of the potential for a focus group and is amenable to this opportunity.
 - The focus group would consist of open-ended questions with approximately 8 – 20 youth.
 - It was mentioned that participants would likely appreciate a letter from the Governor thanking them for their participation.
 - Dennis will compose the questions to be used and will conduct the focus group with Meena Shahi’s support; they will report back to the group on their findings when they have been compiled.

Call to Public

- No one from the public was in attendance.

Adjourn at 2:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jeanne Blackburn (GOCYF).